

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia  
SUBJECT Kovosvit, Trebic

REPORT

DATE DISTR.

8 May 1953

NO. OF PAGES

11

DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT

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PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

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1. Kovosvit National Enterprises, at Trebic [4913N-1553E] produced knitting machines. [For its exact location see Encl. A] It was subordinate to the Kovosvit mother plant at Sezimovo Usti [4923N-1442E]. The production of knitting machines was initiated in 1933 by the Bata Works at Zlin, now Gottwaldov, discontinued by the Germans in 1943 as nonessential for the war, and resumed in 1945 at Sezimovo Usti by the plant there now called Kovosvit but then named MAS. Between Fall 1951 and Summer 1952, production of knitting machines was moved from Sezimovo Usti to Trebic because the plant at Sezimovo Usti became specialized in production of machine tools. [ ] Trebic was chosen because it was considered that the presence of a plant producing knitting machines would be of benefit to the local stocking factory. Production was located in old shops which were suitable for this purpose.

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2. Since Summer 1952 the plant has been in full operation and about 15 knitting machines of various types have been produced there weekly. The production included:

- a. Circular one-cylinder knitting machines for the production of plain socks; without any mechanism for hemming. The socks produced by this machine had a firm border with a rubber strip in it. [See Encl. B, Fig. a]

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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- b. Circular one-cylinder knitting machines for the production of needle-reversed socks. These socks had a ribbed hem 1:1. Encl. B, Fig. b,c,d. The circular one-cylinder knitting machines produced finished single socks.
- c. Circular two-cylinder knitting machines for the production of plain socks, with a mechanism for making a horizontal strip and with a special withdrawing mechanism in the cylinder so that no withdrawing mechanism was needed in the container. See Encl. C.
- d. Circular two-cylinder knitting machines for the production of needle-reversed socks.
3. Apart from these machines, there was under production in Summer 1952 a first group of about 14 two-head full-fashioned flat knitting machines for production of women's stockings. See Encl. D. These machines worked uninterruptedly and were the first of their kind in the world that worked fully automatically. A single woman attended the operation of the machine, cleaned the cutting mechanism, took care of a sufficient stock of the sillon yarn, and gathered the finished stockings from a trough in which they had been automatically deposited by the machine. The stretching steel sticks were set down automatically, and the attaching of the hem was automatically performed by the Schubert & Salzer system. Along with the shortening of the fiber feeders' travel, a corresponding shortening of the travel of the coulier motion cane was automatically effected. The main features of this machine were the following: two heads, 45 gauge, speed of 10,86 - 100 rows in a minute, weight of 850 kg., and production of 15 pairs of stockings in eight hours. A single woman attended 14 machines. This machine was the product of many years' research carried out at the Bata Firm in Gottwaldov. conceived the basic idea 25X1 in 1938. The final form of the machine was constructed by Jaroslav VACLAVIK, one of the leading designers at Kovosvit National Enterprise in Trebic. He was the world expert 25X1 in his branch of design.
4. The following machines were scheduled for production in the near future: One- and two-cylinder embroidery knitting machine, one-cylinder knitting machine of the "Intarsia" type, two cylinder links-links machines; (a prototype of this machine was already set up), four or six head full-fashioned knitting machines for women's stockings, circular knitting machines for jersey fabric, warp knitting machines, (a prototype of this machine was set up), knitting machines for interlock fabric, (a prototype of this machine was already set up), and flat knitting machines of the Lamb type, (a prototype of this machine was already set up). The one and two cylinder knitting machines would be powered by a uniform standard low driving mechanism and by a uniform control chain. The two-cylinder knitting machines were supposed to have a special withdrawing mechanism in the cylinder so that no withdrawing mechanism in the container would be needed. One-cylinder knitting machines would have a simplified driving mechanism with only two pairs of bevel gears and a universal joint.
5. The Kovosvit plant was unfavorably located. The houses in its surroundings made enlargement or the construction of a railroad spur impossible. Therefore the construction of a new plant in Trebic east of the railroad station was planned by the main Kovosvit plant, in Sezimovo Usti. Encl A, Point #11 A new factory building was already located there, dimensions 60 x 20 m., set up and later abandoned by an electrotechnical firm Adjacent to this building a new production 25X1 and a new administration building were to be erected. The

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plant as a whole was scheduled to employ about 2,000 employees. In February 1952, a meeting took place in the Kovosvit plant in Sezimovo Usti, [redacted]. A sketch of the proposed new production building in Trebic was drawn up at this meeting. See Encl. E. The new plant was scheduled to produce weekly: about 25 one-cylinder knitting machines, about 25 two-cylinder knitting machines, from 6 to 12 two-head full-fashioned knitting machines for production of women's stockings, an unspecified number of circular knitting machines for jersey fabric, an unspecified number of flat knitting machines, and an unspecified number of various auxiliary machines. Preliminary plans for such production were drawn up during World War II by Bohuslav SEVCIK, former manager of machinery production at the Bata Concern, (he was fired in 1945 because he was anti-Communist). On my recommendation and because SEVCIK was an outstanding expert it was decided at the meeting that he should be made responsible for all the machinery planning for the new plant in Trebic. Since he was anti-Communist and the Communists were ashamed of not having a genuine Communist to take this responsibility, they did not make his appointment public. SEVCIK worked on this project in close collaboration with Bohuslav CHARVAT, the chief of textile machinery production at the Kovosvit plant in Trebic.

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- Enclosure A: Shoe Plant, Stockings Factory, and Kovosvit National Corporation, Trebic  
B: Circular One-Cylinder Hosiery Knitting Machines  
C: Two-Cylinder Knitting Machine  
D: Full-Fashioned, Fully Automatic Continuous Hosiery Knitting Machine  
E: Sketch of Proposed New Production Building

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ENCLOSURE A (Cont'd)

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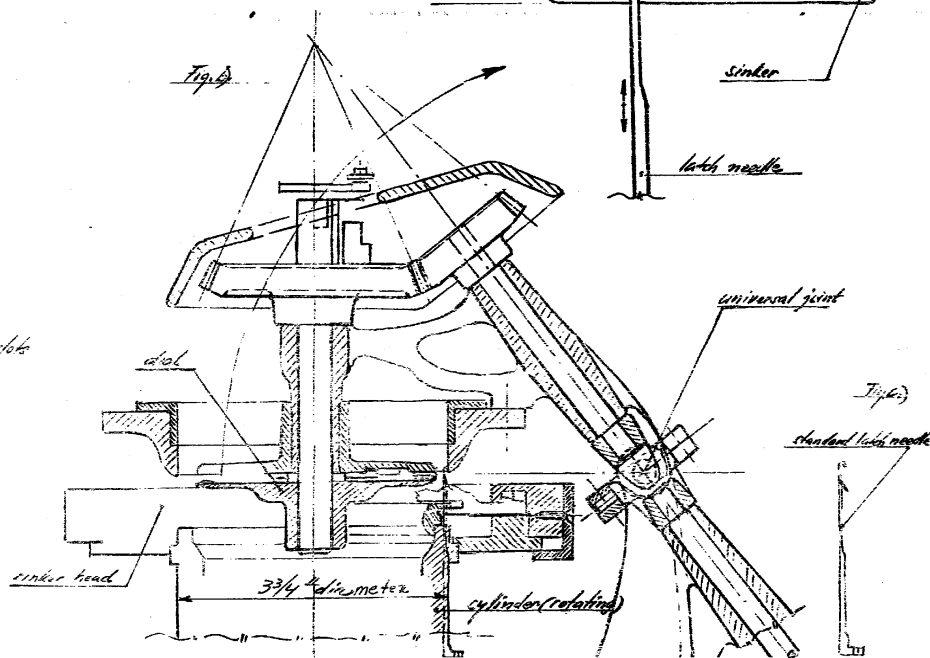
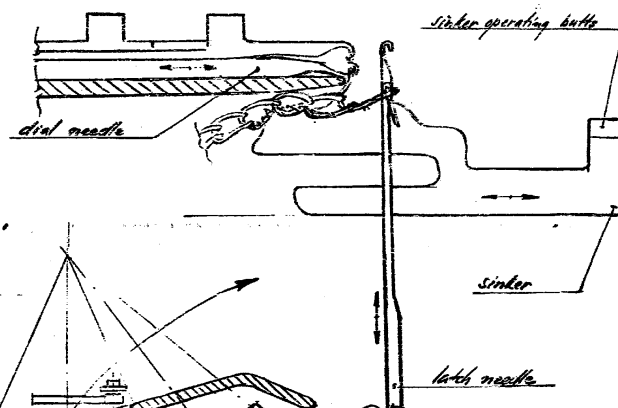
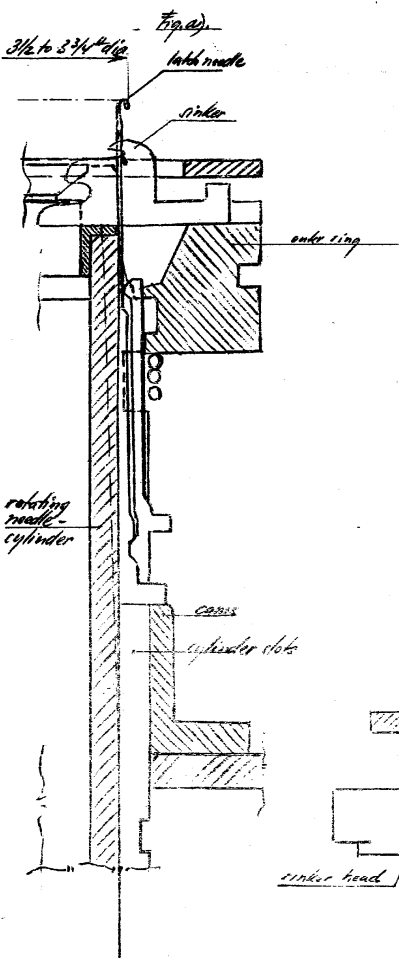
Legend

1. Shoe plant
2. Stocking factory, production hall
3. Power house
4. Dyeworks and various departments of the stocking factory
5. Workers' residences
6. Railroad station, Ripov
7. Kovosvit National Corporation
8. " " "
9. " " "
10. " " "
11. Approximate location of the scheduled new Kovosvit plant.

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**CIRCULAR RING-CYLINDER Hosiery Knitting Machines**

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ENCLOSURE B

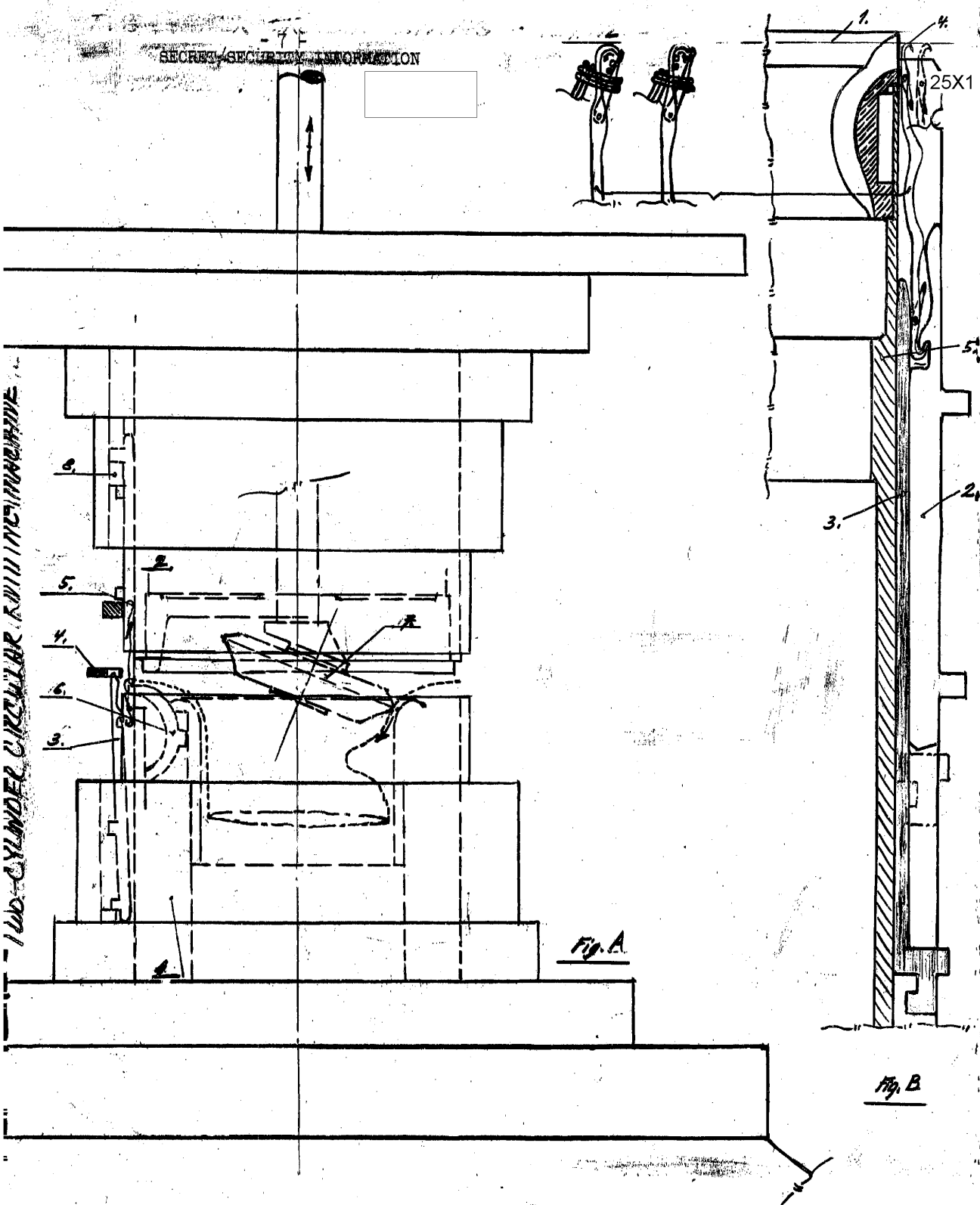
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ENCLOSURE C

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Enclosure C

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Legend

Figure A.

1. Lower revolving cylinder
2. Upper revolving cylinder
3. Needle slides
4. Slides deflection plate
5. Double latch needle
6. Sinker
7. Disc for withdrawing the fabric off needles.

Figure B.

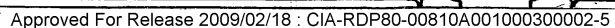
1. Sinker ring
2. Slides with butts of different lengths
3. Rear slide for operating the radial movement of the upper needle hook
4. Double latch needles
5. Lower cylinder

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Enclosure D

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Legend

1. Frame
- 2, 3, 4. Left, middle, and right stand
5. Needle bar
6. Needles for increasing and decreasing the size of the fabric
7. D.C. Electric motor
8. Main cam shaft
9. Reduction gears
10. Driving gear segment
11. Spiral drum
12. Controlling chain
13. Controlling drum
14. Levers of the mechanism for decreasing and increasing the size of the fabric
15. Fabric winding roller
16. Stocking collecting trough

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